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Message Text

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R 052316Z JUL 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS
USDEL JEC PARIS
XMT AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 145893

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, VS
SUBJECT: THE PRG AND THE "FRENCH EXAMPLE"

REF: STATE 113828

WE ARE REPEATING HEREWITH TO ALL POSTS PARIS 15215 JUNE 21 CONTAINING INFORMATION IN ADDITION TO THAT PROVIDED REFTEL TO COUNTER DRV/PRG CAMPAIGN TO EXPLOIT RECENT NAME CHANGE OF PRG REPRESENTATION IN PARIS IN EFFORT TO GAIN WIDER DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION.

BEGIN TEXT

PARA EMBOFF RAISED WITH QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA (INDOCHINA) BOLLE DRV USE OF "FRENCH EXAMPLE" TO
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ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO PERMIT SOME FORM OF PRG

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RESIDENT REPRESENTATION. BOLLE SAID THAT THE GOF WAS WELL AWARE OF THE DRV/PRG CAMPAIGN. REPRESENTATIVES OF BELGIUM, UK, NETHERLANDS, JAPAN, CANADA, AND ITALY (BUT NOT AUSTRALIA) HAD CALLED ON HIM FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE FRENCH ACTION. BOLLE SAID HE TOLD THEM ALL THAT FRANCE CONSIDERED THAT IT WAS THE UNIQUE HISTORICAL CIRCUMSTANCE OF PARIS BEING THE SITE FOR THE FOUR YEAR VIETNAM CONFERENCE (AND NOW THE CELLE ST. CLOUD CONFERENCE) WHICH RESULTED IN PRG PERMANENT MISSION.

WHEN THE KLEBER CONFERENCE STARTED, FRANCE ACCORDED ACCESS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO THE HEAD OF EACH OF THE FOUR DELEGATIONS; THE PRG INFORMATION OFFICE AND THE PERMANENT MISSION GREW OUT OF THIS SITUATION. IF PARIS HAD NOT BEEN THE SITE FOR THE TALKS, FRANCE WOULD HAVE SEEN NO REASON TO HAVE SUCH RELATIONS WITH THE PRG. GIVEN THESE UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES, FRANCE THOUGHT THAT THE FRENCH SOLUTION SHOULD NOT BE AN EXAMPLE OR MODEL FOR ANY OTHER COUNTRY. BOLLE SAID THAT ALL REPRESENTATIVES SEEMED SATISFIED WITH HIS EXPLANATIONS AND INDICATED THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAD NO INTENTION OF RESPONDING TO THE DRV/PRG OVERTURE. HE THOUGHT IT MORE LIKELY THAT SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES SUCH AS SWEDEN WHICH HAD PRC INFORMATION OFFICES MIGHT BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO DRV PERSUASION TO ENHANCE THE PRG REPRESENTATION. PARA EMBASSY COMMENT: TO SOME EXTENT THERE IS A RELATIVELY RECENT FRENCH PRECEDENT FOR THE "SPECIAL REPRESENTATION" ACCORDED THE PRG. WHILE NOT COMPLETELY ANALOGOUS, THE "DELEGATION" STATUS GRANTED THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC IN 1967 RESEMBLES THAT GIVEN THE PRG IN THAT (A) THE FRENCH INSTITUTIONALIZED A SPECIAL, EXTRA-DIPLOAMATIC RELATIONSHIP; (B) NO RECOGNITION OF STATEHOOD WAS INVOLVED; (C) NO DE FACTO RECOGNITION AS A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WAS INVOLVED OR CONVEYED; (D) NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH A PREVIOUSLY RECOGNIZED STATE'S DULY CONSTITUTED NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONTINUED, UNAFFECTED BY THE STATUS CONFERRED ON A SUBNATIONAL ENTITY. THUS, THE GOF-QUEBEC AND GOF-PRG ARRANGEMENTS AROSE SOLELY FROM THE UNIQUE NATURE OF THEIR PAST RELATIONSHIPS. THESE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES PROVIDE CONFIDENTIAL

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NO REASONABLE BASIS ON WHICH A THIRD COUNTRY SHOULD MODEL ITS FUTURE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRG. PARA BOLLE SAID THAT THE GOF HAD EXPLAINED THE FRENCH POSITION AT THE TIME TO THE GVN. IN PARTICULAR GOF EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS NOT SUPPORTING A "THIRD VIETNAM" WHICH WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THE SPIRIT OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDED FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF ONE SOUTH VIETNAM. BOLLE THOUGHT THE GVN HAD RESPONDED

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VERY INTELLIGENTLY BY STATING THAT THE PRG HAD IN FACT ADMITTED THAT IT WAS NOT A GOVERNMENT WHEN IT ACCEPTED SUCH INFERIOR STATUS FROM THE GOF. PARA BOLLE SAID THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN ANY FORMAL STATEMENT BY THE GOF, AND HE DOUBTED THAT THERE EVER WOULD BE ONE. THERE HAD BEEN NO PUBLIC INTEREST OR CONTROVERSY--SUCH AS A PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION--WHCIH WOULD PROMPT AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT. WHEN THE MATTER WAS RAISED FIRST BY THE PRG ON 22 MAY, THE QUAI PREPARED A RELEASE TO AFP WHICH QUOTED QUAI SOURCES. WE SHALL SEND OUR INFORMAL ENGLISH

TRANSLATION OF THE AFP RELEASE TO INFO ADDRESSEES.
END TEXT SISCO

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